

## Calendar No. 717

97TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S. 2355**

[Report No. 97-503]

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that persons with impaired hearing are ensured reasonable access to telephone service.

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**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES**

APRIL 1 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 22), 1982

Mr. CANNON (for himself, Mr. GOLDWATER, and Mr. RIEGLE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

JULY 22 (legislative day, JULY 12), 1982

Reported by Mr. PACKWOOD, with an amendment

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**A BILL**

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that persons with impaired hearing are ensured reasonable access to telephone service.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 ~~That the Congress hereby finds that—~~

(1) all persons subscribing to or otherwise receiving telephone service in the Nation should receive the best service which is technologically possible;

(2) currently available technology is capable of providing telephone service to some of those individuals who, because of hearing impairments, require telephone reception by means of hearing aids with induction coils, or other inductive receptors;

9           (2) the lack of technical standards ensuring com-  
10       patibility between hearing aids and telephones has pre-  
11       vented receipt of the best service which is technologi-  
12       cally possible; and

(4) adoption of technical standards is required in order to ensure compatibility between telephones and hearing aids, thereby accommodating the needs of individuals with hearing impairments.

17       SEC. 2. Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47  
18       U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end thereof  
19       the following new section:

20       ~~"TELEPHONE SERVICE TO PERSONS WITH IMPAIRED~~  
21                     ~~HEARING~~

22       ~~"SEC. 225. (a) The Commission shall establish such~~  
23 ~~regulations as are necessary to ensure reasonable access to~~  
24 ~~telephone service by persons with impaired hearing.~~

1       “(b) In ensuring such access, the Commission shall re-  
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4       hearing aids through the use of an induction coil or other  
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6       other telephones frequently used by the public (such as tele-  
7       phones in hospital rooms), or provided for emergency access  
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11       standards as are required in order to ensure compatibility be-  
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13       “(d) The Commission shall establish such requirements  
14       for the labeling of equipment and packaging materials for  
15       equipment as are needed to provide adequate information to  
16       consumers on the compatibility between telephones and hear-  
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18       “(e) In any rulemaking to implement the provisions of  
19       this section, the Commission shall specifically consider the  
20       costs and benefits to all telephone users, including persons  
21       with and without hearing impairments. The Commission shall  
22       ensure that regulations adopted to implement this section do  
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